

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new claims 3-5 as follows:

**LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS**

Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (New) A cordless continuous blind comprising:

- a) an upper beam;
- b) a continuous folding blind connected at a top thereof to a bottom of the upper beam and having a plurality of slats; and
- 5 c) two retaining plates, each of the two retaining plates having:
  - i) a secured section fixedly connected to one of two opposing ends of a bottommost slat of the plurality of slats;
  - ii) an extending section; and
  - 10 iii) a flexible counter weight stick located along a center of a length thereof,

wherein each of the two retaining plates is movable between open and clamped positions, in the clamped position, each extending section is bent around a predetermined number of the plurality of slats clamping the predetermined number of the plurality of slats between each extending section and each secured section, and, in the open position, the extending section extends outwardly from the continuous folding blind.

Claim 4. (New) The cordless continuous blind according to claim 3, wherein each of the two retaining plates is sewn to the bottommost slat of the continuous folding blind.

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Claim 5. (New) The cordless continuous blind according to claim 3, further comprising a fastening agent fixedly connecting each of the two retaining plates to the bottommost slat of the continuous folding blind.